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Just now dodging seems to be the "para-

mount issue."

Still, there are men belonging to both

parties who would have a military post

near Indianapolis if they could induce Con-

gress to vote it.

The air is getting thick with politics as

election day approaches. A good many

people will not be able to breathe freely

until the day is over.

It was the New York Evening Post, which

would like to support Mr. Bryan if it

could, that spoke of "Bryan's insensibility

to the disgrace" of dining with Croker.

The world's wheat crop for 1900 is esti-

mated at 2,500,000 bushels against 2,325,-

400,000 bushels last year. And yet this mere

fraction of 125,000 bushels is sufficient to

make the price for the year.

The only prominent person outside of the

Tammany organization who glories in it

is William Jennings Bryan. Even Mayor

Taggart makes haste to dismiss the intima-

tion that he has Croker money.

The halting of Higgins before the grand

jury may be the beginning of a work which

will put an end to the selling of votes and

influence by persons connected with the

city government. The general conviction

is that the number of persons who are

"on the make" has increased during the

past few years.

The revelations which the investigation

of the Wilhelm murder have brought to

light show that Indianapolis has a class

of degraded and vicious men who are not

known except to the police. How many of

them are there in the city? Are they be-

yond the reach of religious influences, or

do those who are engaged in Christian

work practically admit that they are be-

yond the reach of the gospel?

It is generally conceded by those who

are qualified to judge that a staff appoint-

ment prevented Colonel James R. Ross

from attaining the rank and distinction

he would have acquired had he continued

to serve in Indiana regiments. He pos-

sessed in a conspicuous degree the qualities

of a first-class soldier—soldierly tact, cour-

age and steadiness. No man did more to

build up the National Guard in its earlier

years than did Colonel Ross. He possessed

in a high degree the winning quality of

manliness.

One of the lessons of the census figures

of the 150 cities having a population of

over 25,000 is that the smaller cities that

have made the greatest gain in population

are those which have become the seats

of manufacturing industries. When the

figures of cities and towns having popu-

lations of from 10,000 to 25,000 are given,

greater growth in percentage will appear.

This means that the manufacturing indus-

tries of the country are expanding instead

of being concentrated in a few cities and

comparatively few hands.

The end of the greatest strike in this

century without widespread violence and

considerable loss of life and disregard for

the safeguards of law and order is cause

for sincere congratulations and thankful-

ness. It would not have been possible ten

even five years ago. It has been accom-

plished by organization, and organization

which respects the laws of the land. The

lessons which the national officers of the

miners' association have taught are of the

greatest value, because they have proved

that respect for law is more effective in

securing a desired reform than lawless-

ness. If those officers had preached hatred

and class prejudice instead of standing

for the rights of the miners they would have

made the anthracite region the scene of

carnage.

Since John Sherman died, papers that

slandered him while he was bravely bat-

of this convention will be interested in hearing that the Board of Education of Washington, D. C., has recommended the appointment of eleven school inspectors for the schools in that city, each physician to be paid \$500 a year. This action will have to be ratified by Congress before it goes into effect, and the fact that Congress will also provide for paying the bills probably has something to do with the board's liberality. The school directors in most cities have to count the cost of such innovations more closely.

SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.

Two or three points in the speech of Secretary Root, last week, deserve more than passing notice, because they present facts of history which have been denied by those who have made themselves the champions of Aguinaldo. The American friends of Aguinaldo, for instance, have been constantly declaring that an alliance was made with Aguinaldo at the outset by Admiral Dewey. It has contained nothing in these admirals of Aguinaldo that Admiral Dewey, in the most positive manner, has denied, time and again, that no understanding of any character whatever was had with him. Now, Secretary Root presents a secret letter of instructions to a Philippine commission, written by the president of Aguinaldo's Cabinet and dated Jan. 4, 1899, in which the declaration is made that "the chief of the Philippine people has not made any agreement with the government of the United States." This should settle that point of the controversy once for all.

Again, Secretary Root quoted from a letter of instructions to Aguinaldo's followers in Manila who were to prepare to massacre all Americans. This letter bears the date of Jan. 9, 1899. He showed that, in accordance with the instructions, the friends of Aguinaldo in the city began to remove their families and goods from the city so that they might not be injured by the inevitable fighting, which was begun the night of Feb. 4 by a body of Filipinos marching across the American lines in spite of the sentinel's call to halt, with the deliberate intent of carrying out the plan dated a month earlier. This statement, with the evidence, ought to satisfy those people who have been led to believe that the Americans began the fighting in Luzon.

Still another point of interest which has not been emphasized by a semi-official statement before is the evidence that Aguinaldo issued a general order to his army June 27 of the current year, directing the commanders of guerrilla bands to attack the American outposts and detachments and to continually molest them for the purpose of affecting the presidential election and for bringing about "the fall of the Imperialistic party." This documentary proof that the fighting the past few months has been provoked by the anti-imperialists here ought to bring to their senses all good Americans who do not desire to give aid and comfort to the guerrillas who are killing American soldiers.

Secretary Root also made it appear that the Tagalog Government is not so much a patriot as a self-seeker, by calling attention to the fact that he sold out the cause of the insurgents to Spain for \$400,000 in hand and the promise of \$400,000 more, and that the insurrection was in progress before the battle of Manila had ceased and after the signing of the agreement between Aguinaldo and the Spanish authorities. This statement has been made before, but Secretary Root quoted from the treaty between the Spanish and Aguinaldo, which contains proof of the agreement. This ought to dispose of the claim that Aguinaldo is fighting for the liberties of his race.

THREE NATIONS IN THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS.

The announcement of the Anglo-German compact regarding the future of China insures a policy for which this government stood long before the hostile demonstration of the anti-foreign element in that country. For years the United States has been opposed to the breaking up of the Chinese empire. At the same time the traditional policy of this country would have prevented us from embarking in any line of action more hostile to the partition of China among the European powers than a protest. A year ago the impression prevailed that all the European powers, except Great Britain, were intent on parceling out the middle kingdom among themselves. Three years ago so strong was the conviction that China would be appropriated by Europe that Senator Teller startled the American people by declaring that the United States should enter into an alliance with Great Britain to prevent the partition of China and shutting out the United States from the commerce of the Orient. Since that date we have acquired title to the gateway to China, and other unexpected events have made us one of the nations which must be consulted when the disposition of those peoples, which are regarded as the wards of the dominant powers, is under consideration. It was the apprehension of the breaking up of China which led Secretary Hay to secure the "open door" treaty with the European powers, by which the United States was secured all the commercial advantages of all other nations in every part of China, whomsoever might hold it.

The "open door" policy was the American policy, and the American government was the first to declare for the integrity of Chinese territory and the open door.

When the American position was announced the powers did not accept it with enthusiasm. It was not the result of conference, and what was more objectionable to the masters of diplomacy, it was made public, whereas the traditional diplomat would have held it a secret as long as policy required. But the point is that Germany and Great Britain have announced a compact which is identical with the policy which the United States secured for itself so far as commerce is concerned, and for the territorial integrity of China, which was several months ago set forth as the American policy.

The importance of the German-British compact as relates to its influence upon world-wide politics cannot be overestimated. The union of Germany and Great Britain upon the Chinese question means that their policy will prevail. No alliance that can be made in Europe against Great Britain and Germany can be effective, particularly when the moral influence of the support of the United States is behind them. Moreover, the action of those two powers upon the Chinese question seems to insure the peace of Europe. The disposition of China has seemed so difficult a problem to many that those writers who

are constantly seeing war clouds hovering over Europe have been predicting that the Chinese question would involve all Europe in war. The German-British compact spoils all such predictions. It may take a long time to adjust the complications in China, but the settlement will not involve Europe in war. It may be added that whenever the governments of the world's three progressive peoples—the United States, Great Britain and Germany—agree upon a policy it will be carried into effect without bloodshed. These nations may not form an alliance, but they are very likely to see international problems in the same light, and in a light that will extend the blessings of civilization.

CORRUPTING JURIES.

A proposition to amend the Constitution of Kansas so that three-fourths of the members of a jury may return a verdict is to be voted on in that State at the coming election. It is not thought that it will carry, voters generally not being especially interested in the questions involved, while lawyers themselves disagree as to the advisability of the change. One judge of much experience, who is opposed to the measure, is quoted as saying that the proposed alteration would afford but little relief. If there were a certainty of getting twelve honest men into the jury box there could be no objection to the three-fourths rule where there is a mere honest difference of opinion, but it is his belief that many men either lack sufficient intelligence to understand their duties as jurors, or else have a very erroneous idea of their duties. A "plunger," or corrupter of juries, would, he thinks, have no difficulty in preventing a mistrial under the three-fourths rule, the only difference being that it would be at a greater cost than where only one jurymen was to be "fixed." This judge does not cherish the common objection to the one stubborn jurymen who sometimes overrules the opinion of eleven men, but holds that while he may be corrupt, he may, on the other hand, be the honest man to save the case. "A majority is not necessarily intelligent or necessarily honest," he goes on to say, and uses this illustration: "When God determined to destroy Sodom, and spoke to Abraham on the subject, it was agreed that He would not destroy the town if Abraham could find 100 good men. Abraham got this figure reduced to fifty, then to twenty, and then to five, the Lord promising that if he could find five good men He would withhold His destroying hand. And old Abraham couldn't find five men. He called out Lot and his wife, and even she looked back. No, one honest man sometimes saves a case by taking a strong stand and explaining it to his weaker fellows." He says there is a great difference between circuit and federal courts in the matter of jury "fixing." "When I go into the federal courts I never feel," he says, "that some deputy sheriff has plugged the jury." He offers no explanation for this difference, though the probable and obvious one is that many juries in the lower courts contain some "professionals," who seek such duties for the sake of possible bribes, whereas federal juries are more carefully chosen. A good many persons who have not carefully considered the matter would be likely to hold that the three-fourths rule is desirable, but it is certain that there is another side to the question.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

In the mere fact of forming an organiza-

tion the members of the Indiana Library As-

sociation showed themselves to be possessed

of the spirit of progress, and of a wish to

work for the interests of the public. These

members are for the most part men and

women actively engaged in library work in

the cities and towns of the State. Some of

them have had the advantage of special

training for their work in library schools

of the East; some, in addition to this train-

ing, have had years of practical experience.

Others, again, especially those in charge of

new and smaller libraries where trained

service cannot easily be secured, are feel-

ing their way along, guided by their own

judgment and such information as they can

gather from the experience of others. Though, as with all other professions, the

time never comes when the most skilled

and intelligent librarian cannot learn some-

thing new in regard to the calling, or when

an interchange of professional views is not

profitable, it is the less experienced mem-

bers who should gain most from the meet-

ings of the association. The library move-

ment is but fairly getting under way in In-

diana. In New England every town of any

size, almost every village, has its public

or subscription library as a matter of

course; but in Indiana such institutions are

only found in the larger towns, and not in

all of them. The improved methods in the

public schools, however, and the organiza-

tion of library clubs have created a de-

mand for books of reference and for

technical and literary works which must in

time inevitably bear fruit in the establish-

ment of libraries wherever are to be found

schoolhouses and progressive women—for

as a rule, the first steps in such enter-

prises are taken by women. Probably more

ventures in this direction would have been

undertaken before now but for a lack of

knowledge as to the methods of procedure

and the character and cost of books need-

ed as the foundation of such libraries. A

practical result of education is not so

much the storing of facts in the mind as

the knowledge of where to find the facts

when they are needed. This knowledge is

of no value, of course, where books are not

accessible, but a vast number of intelligent

men and women who have lived remote

from large collections of books have be-

coming at desired information. They know

it is in books, but do not know in what

books. They are not even familiar with

encyclopedias, because an encyclopedia is

an expensive work, not found in every

household, nor in every schoolroom, nor

even in every community. Many of the

questions that come to every newspaper

editor or to every writer of fiction or of

poetry have their answers in the books

which Thomas Hardy loved so dearly, and

which conduct a "query column" show

the want of these useful volumes in the

inquirer's neighborhood, and, with other

blind outcroppings for information indicat-

ing the absence of books, are pathetic in a

way. No one who knows books can look

upon being without them save as a mis-

fortune.

It is as a school for persons seeking light

in regard to the forming and operating

even of the simplest libraries that this

State association of librarians can find its

greatest usefulness. What the experienced

members should offer when they come to

gather is the fruits of their experience in

practical instructions to the uninitiated. If

the women in remote villages who have the

wish to make a beginning in the work

know that they could learn how to take the preliminary steps by coming to the meeting; if young librarians were sure of being told something about cataloging, about reference work, about what books to buy in making a little money go a long way, about the many technicalities of the business, they would not miss attendance. The association is doing good work in keeping alive the library spirit and in stimulating even the older and better qualified members to their best efforts, but it has not yet reached its highest usefulness. Indianapolis, having the largest and best-equipped public library in the State, is in good shape to serve as a center for this library movement. Its librarians and its staff are enthusiastic and ready to co-operate with outside workers in every practical way. The same is to be said of the State Library, except that its facilities are more limited. It may be that in time the association, with these institutions as a basis for illustration, if nothing further, will make its annual sessions of such practical value that they will serve as a school of instruction to all who wish technical knowledge.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Purdue University is doing good work in arranging for the holding of farmers' institutes in every county of the State. All intelligent, progressive farmers acknowledge the advantage of coming together occasionally for interchange of views and discussion of the problems of agriculture, but in the absence of organization it requires considerable individual exertion to make such meetings possible or successful, and it is only in an occasional community that a man is found with sufficient enthusiasm to undertake the responsibility of getting them up. Such a movement needs the backing and stimulus either of formal organization or of an institution in sympathy with the farmer's work. This sympathy Purdue, being an agricultural college, has, of course. Its purpose is not merely to give its students the advantage of scientific and technical discoveries bearing on the farmer's calling, but to disseminate such knowledge freely among the farmers themselves. Also, it hopes for co-operation that in carrying on its experimental work it may have the benefit of the farmers' experience in similar directions. As a government experiment station it is doing much service to the agricultural interests of the State, and the more closely in touch with it the farmers come the greater will be the mutual gain.

These institutes are profitable, not only

in a business but in a social way. The

great drawback to farm life is the lack of

social intercourse. Anything that brings

the farmers and their wives out of their

homes into friendly communion is to be

encouraged. If each of the county insti-

tutes held shall inspire those in attend-

ance to arrange for like gatherings at more

frequent intervals in their respective town-

ships or neighborhoods it will serve a good

purpose beyond the original intention.

The story that two men went through a

German community in the southern part

of the State taking the names of abso-

luted men between eighteen and forty

years of age, giving the impression that

they were enrolling those liable to be called

into the army, which was given out sev-

eral weeks ago, has been repeated. It can

be believed that men will stoop to such

miserable devices to win votes, but it

seems incredible that in a State which has

such an excellent system of public schools

there are those who can be duped by such

a shallow device.

Mr. Bernard Shaw, the versatile English

writer, offers some unique views on the

education of children. "Any person," he

says, "trying to form the moral character

of children ought to be drowned." By way

of explaining this remark he goes on to

say: "All progress depends on one gen-

eration being better than its predecessor.

Therefore if there is to be any progress

at all, it must be recognized that the chil-